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Editorial Notes

Reading under Difficulties. OUR boys on the farms have got round once more to the beginning of another season's work, and we can fancy a good many sleepy eyes and tired heads will hang drowsily and heavily over the April number of UPS AND DOWNS. A long day's ploughing or seeding in the bright freshness of the spring air is a much better preparation for a good night's sleep than an hour or two's reading, and we sadly fear that our literary labours will be expended in vain as far as many of our readers are concerned. However, we must have our little say, though we ask no one to stay out of bed to listen to us. Our friends will have three months before they hear from us again, so there is ample time for them to read, mark, and inwardly digest all we have to offer to their mental palate.

Loyal Subjects and Brave Soldiers. THE war has made us feel a bit down in the mouth during the winter, and after reading some of those despatches that have brought the news of failure and reverses, we have felt all unhinged, and they have kept us, as it were, in a chronic fit of the blues. We do not intend to discuss the war, as we do not receive special despatches, and cannot pretend to be up to date with our information, so that we should

be commenting upon a state of affairs that may have entirely altered one way or the other by the time we are off the press. Suffice it to say that our letters from boys have teemed with the war, and we venture to affirm that Her Majesty has no more loyal subjects, or any more ready to take their share in the defence of the Empire, than Dr. Barnardo's boys in Canada. The three Canadian contingents have each taken their quota of our old boys, and at least a dozen of our family are now at the front. We shall, doubtless, hear more of them later, and we have no fear but that every man of the number will do his duty as "England expects" it of him, and prove himself a brave and loyal "Soldier of the Queen."

A Highly Encouraging Record.

SOUTH African events aside, we can look back upon a busy and satisfactory three months.

We believe we are correct in saying that we have never passed weeks with so few returns to the Home, and so few serious complaints of misconduct, or cases of physical or moral break-down. The Home in Toronto has frequently been without a boy on the premises, and although winter is always "growing time" with employers, when the value of boys' services is least regarded as an offset to their short